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THE COMMONWEALTH

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EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS. OBSERVATIONS OF PASSING EVENTS.

ALMOST every one is saying his say about Judge Parker's telegram to the National Democratic Convention, and we might as well have ours. It will be remembered that the platform committee placed in the platform no financial plank. When Judge Parker was apprised of that fact and that he had been nominated for President, he at once wired a prominent member of the convention that inasmuch as the platform had no financial plank he felt it his duty to state that he was a sound money man, favored the gold standard, and that if the convention could not accept him as such for its nominee it would better nominate another man.

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION expects to see a Southern man nominated for President yet. It says: "One of the most significant facts about the great Democratic National Convention at St. Louis was the important part which the South, through its leaders, played in shaping the results. Not only was John Sharpe Williams, a Southern man, temporary chairman and Champ Clark, another Southern man, permanent chairman, but the chairmanship of the two most important committees--that on platform and that on rules--went to eminent Southerners.

"In straightening out the misunderstanding resulting from the telegram of Judge Parker, the Southern leaders played the most important part. The Eastern leaders relied solely on the common sense of the Southerners to bring order out of what at one time seemed chaos, and they brought it. The South is again taking the proper place in shaping the action of the party in which it is not only the strongest, but the most conservative, element. The South will, at some time in the not far future, do its full duty by insisting upon a Southern man for the Presidency."

THIS paper had occasion some months ago to quote some remarkable stories from the Richmond Times-Dispatch as told by its correspondents in different parts of Virginia. This time it is from the Richmond News-Leader, and here it is from Scottsville, Va.:

"On 'Scotland', the estate of Senator Thomas S. Martin, a few miles from this place, lies buried a quantity of treasure. During the war, while the Federals made numerous raids through the country, the directors of the banks of Scottsville hid away their money in strong boxes under the beds of small streams, the weight of the money holding down the boxes. Several thousands were in each box. Mr. Charles A. Scott stowed away underground on the farm at 'Scottlands' between \$8,000 and \$10,000, besides a quantity of plate and jewels. The Federal troops set fire to his home, along with many others, and when he saw it burning, while still at some distance from the house, the shock was so great that he fell dead. To this day no one has ever discovered the whereabouts of the hidden treasure, and for some one it lies waiting to be had for the finding and digging!

"On the same place, year after year, since the time of Mr. Daniel Scott, great flocks of wild geese have come to be fed each spring and fall on their semi-annual journeys. The custom of feeding the wild geese originated with Mr. Scott, and was kept up by his descendants. He had a special garment which he donned when feeding the hungry birds, and in this they invariably recognized him. The children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the first geese must have been well instructed in regard to this 'wayside inn,' for they always tarried there to get provisions."

It has come to be a sort of tradition with the American people to regard the year in which we elect a President as inevitably a dull year. Thousands of people will glibly say that it being a Presidential campaign year, business will likely be dull and a general depression will be the result; but not one in a thousand upon an analysis of the whole matter can give any really good reason for saying so. If it is necessarily true that a Presidential year brings depression, it is a great pity that the year 1904 is to be the victim of such a time; for the prosperity of the country is too pleasing to be so disturbed. We believe that the Richmond News-Leader has it about right in the following observations:

"We are a people who try to break away from tradition, to demonstrate the possibility of the impossible and to prove that a thing need not be so because it always has been so. Can anybody offer any real reason why this Presidential year should be one of depression or why business should be dull? Certainly there is nothing to be afraid of, unless it is Mr. Roosevelt, and we have him already. If there is to be any change it must be for the better. No human being can doubt the common sense, the conservatism of Judge Parker and the recent Democratic convention has proved too plainly for question that the conservative element is permanently and firmly in control of the Democratic party. Why then should the tradition continue to be respected?"

"When the commerce of the country combines to take gloomy and pessimistic views, gloom, doubt and fear must result in everything; but we can see no reason or excuse for them. The crops promise finely, the country is at peace, both the great political parties are committed to conservatism and labor disturbances are no more than usual. Why should not this year break the traditions and establish a new precedent of booming business and prosperity in the very face of a pending general election."

When bilious take Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Scotland Neck, and Leggett's Drug Store, Hobgood. Small waists are no longer in style. It's the round plump waists that come by taking Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea; that's all the go. 35 cents. Tea or tablet form. E. T. Whitehead & Co.

Be Careful What You Say.

In speaking of a person's faults, Pray don't forget your own; Remember those with homes of glass Should seldom throw a stone; If we have nothing else to do, Than talk of those who sin, 'Tis better to commence at home, And from that point begin.

We have no right to judge a man, Until he's fairly tried; Should we not like his company, We know the world is wide, Some may have faults--and who has not-- The old as well as young; Perhaps we may, for aught we know, Have fifty to their one.

I'll tell you of a better plan, And find it works full well; To try my own defects to cure Ere others' faults I tell; And though I sometimes hope to be No worse than some I know, My own shortcomings bid me let The faults of others go.

Then let us all when we begin To slander friend or foe, Think of the harm our word may do To those we little know Remember--curses, sometimes, like Our chickens--'roost at home.' Don't speak of others' faults, until We have none of our own.

Bismarck's Strategy.

Bismarck was not only a Statesman, able to handle abstract theories of government, but a shrewd player of the lesser games of life. Some years ago an anonymous writer contributed to the New Review this story of the Iron Chancellor's very human cleverness. When he represented Prussia at the Diet of Frankfurt in 1866, he had reason to suspect that his letters and dispatches were tampered with by the Austrians. Other diplomats suffered from the same meddling.

One day, after a stormy meeting, Bismarck and the representative from Hanover walked away together and as they walked the Hanoverian touched on the sore subject, and asked Bismarck if he had found a way to get his letters through.

"You shall know presently," answered Bismarck. The prince, as the two strolled along, led the way through dingy by-paths into a slum. Drawing on a thick pair of gloves, he entered a little shop where the poor bought tea, cheese, pickles, lamp oil and such commodities. The astonished Hanoverian followed.

"Boy," called Bismarck to the stupid looking lad behind the counter, "do you sell soap?"

"Yes, sir," replied the boy, putting before him a variety of strong-scented cakes.

"How much is this? And this?" said the diplomatist, handling one cake after another.

While the soap selected was being wrapped up Bismarck thrust his hand into his pocket and drew out an unopened letter. He gave an exclamation as of dismay and surprise. Apparently annoyed at his forgetfulness, he cried, "Boy, do you sell envelopes?"

Envelopes of a cheap grade were produced, and Bismarck put the letter in one. Then he asked for pen and ink, and set out to write the address, but his heavy glove hindered him. "Here, boy," he exclaimed, throwing down the pen, "just write this address for me!"

When the scrawl was finished, Bismarck took the letter and left the shop. "There," he said, putting the letter to his companion's nose, "what with the soap, the cheese, the candle and the herring, I don't think they'll smell my dispatches under that writing!"

Some Egg Statistics.

"The eggs produced on farms in 1899 would fill a train of cars that would reach from Washington to Chicago. Look at the figures: 1,293,818,144 dozen, or 43,127,272 crates of thirty dozen each. These are worth \$144,286,370. In 1889 the product was 474,195,288 fewer than in 1899. The average price per dozen ranged from 77 in Texas to 43 in Alaska. The average price in the whole country was 11.15 cents per dozen. There were two hundred and three eggs for each of our population and they were worth \$1.89.

"In the production of eggs Iowa leads, with 96,621,920 dozen, worth \$10,016,707. Ohio comes into second place, as to amount, with 91,766,630 dozen worth \$10,280,769, and Illinois takes third rank with 86,402,670, worth \$8,942,401."

FILES UPON TOP OF FILES.

FILES UPON TOP OF FILES. People have the files, and DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve cures them. There are many different kinds of files, but if you get the genuine and original Witch Hazel Salve made by E. C. DeWitt & Co. of Chicago, a cure is certain. C. A. Tisdale, of Summerton, S. C., says: "I had piles 20 years and DeWitt's salve cured me after everything else failed." Sold by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

A GREAT RULER.

One of the greatest of rulers is the liver. It governs the human organism. When the liver is out of order the whole system becomes diseased. Keep your liver healthy by using Rydall's Liver Tablets. They cure all liver trouble. They cure constipation. Your money back if they do not give satisfaction. E. T. Whitehead & Co.

FARMING IN THE OLD DAYS.

Profitable Then, It Ought to be Much More so These Days.

CORN SOLD AT TEN CENTS.

Waldo F. Brown in New York Tribune.

To get a clear idea of what progress agriculture has made, it is necessary to look at the conditions under which farming was done in the first half of the century. First, a very heavy amount of labor came upon the farmer in the clearing of the farms, particularly in those states where there was little prairie and where the timber was large and heavy. Then log houses had to be built for the family and stables to shelter the stock, and also churches and school houses, for the men who settled Ohio, and in fact most of our states, were men of ideas, who were determined to give their children education and to minister to their higher wants as well as to the wants of the body. Then roads were to be built and bridges constructed, as the market in those days was accessible only by wagon, and this often at a long distance from the farms.

Another hindrance to agricultural progress was the character of the implements with which the farming must be done. They were crude and clumsy, mostly made by the rearest blacksmith; and even the hoes, instead of being the light, steel hoes so easy of operation, were clumsily forged by the blacksmith, and the handles were made and put in by the farmer, and often these handles were simply bean poles.

Another difficulty the farmers had to meet was in the markets, which not only were at a great distance from home, but were also easily glutted, as the cities had not made growth enough to furnish a market for the surplus of the farm even when that surplus was small. Fortunate was the man who was located within 50 miles of a good market for his products, and even then he sometimes would find the market so glutted that after having drawn his load a long distance to it, he could not dispose of the products. As an illustration of this, a neighbor of mine--a man of about my own age--tells me that when he was 18 years old he needed a little money, and applied to his father for it. His father said to him: "There is the corn crib; sell to him the corn you wish; take the load to Cincinnati and sell it, and you may have all the money it brings." He shelled a two-horse load of corn, took it to the mill and had it ground and went to Cincinnati, 40 miles distant, with the meal. He found the market so glutted that 10 cents a bushel was the best offer he could get for it, and was not able to dispose of more than half his load at that. I have forgotten now whether he drew the remainder home or left it with a commission man.

This was not only true of corn, but of all products. During the '40s, when I was old enough to work on the farm, and can recall prices received, dressed pork sold once as low as \$1.75 a hundred pounds, and the highest I remember during this period was \$3.95 a hundred pounds. This was considered a remarkably good price for those who were within 50 or 75 miles of a market. And, the same season in which pork opened at \$3.95 in November, the price had dropped in February to \$1.75. Eggs sold as low as three cents a dozen and potatoes at times were scarcely worth drawing to market, selling at 15 cents a bushel. When there was a local failure of crop, however, prices were high; and I have known potatoes to sell at 25 cents a bushel in the spring and advance to \$2 before the following spring. There might be an abundant crop and a glut in the market within 100 miles, but farmers would not know it; and if they did, the wagoning of potatoes that distance would largely reduce this profit.

The want of transportation to market was one of the chief factors in the poverty of farmers, for it not only lowered the price or increased the cost of marketing what they had to sell, but it also made what they had to buy, which came from an eastern market, very high in price. The only way to get goods at this time from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington (which seem to have been the best eastern markets) was to wagon them across the Allegheny mountains, and as a consequence the farmer paid more than double the price at which he can now buy the necessities of life for the

DISEASE Caused by Constipation 80% Through other 20% causes. 100%.

DR. THACHER'S Liver and Blood Syrup. CURES BY REMOVING THE CAUSE. A THREE-FOLD REMEDY for all its due to humoral troubles. Acts on the Liver and Kidneys and Purifies the Blood.

Thousands have used this reliable remedy with perfect confidence and success for 62 years, because they know just what it contains. The formula consists of Buchu, Hydrangea, Mandrake, Yellow Dock, Dandelion, Sarsaparilla, Gentian, Senna and Iodide of Potassium.

family. An examination of old account books kept by my father in the '40s shows that nails sold at 10 and 12 cents a pound; sugar, coffee, calico and muslin at nearly double the price at which they can now be bought. The first clean clover seed I ever saw cost \$20 a bushel, as no clover hullers had been invented at that time and the only way to get clean seed was to tramp a flooring with four horses for several days, and then only about half the seed was clean, and the chaff was invariably saved to sow on the home farm.

A Beautiful Sermon.

A preacher in Kansas the other day delivered a brief but very beautiful funeral sermon. Here it is:

"A word to you all. Post mortem prayers are love in the air. People stoop to kiss their dead who never stoop to kiss their living; they hover over open caskets in hysterical sobs, but fail to throw their arms around their loved ones who are fighting the stern battles of life. A word of cheer to the living is worth more than the roses of Christendom piled high on casket covers. The dead cannot smell the flowers, but the living can; scatter them broadcast in their pathway, therefore, and pluck out the thorns before it is too late."

FOR OVER SIXTY YEARS.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for sixty years by millions of mothers for their children while teething, with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea. It will relieve the poorest little sufferer immediately. Sold by Druggists in every part of the world. Twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup."

WEAK HEARTS.

Are caused by indigestion. If you eat a little too much, or if you are subject to attacks of indigestion, the stomach expands--swells and puffs up against the heart. This crowds the heart and shortens the breath. Rapid heart beats and heart disease is the final result. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure digests what you eat, takes the strain off the heart, cures indigestion, dyspepsia, sour stomach, and contributes nourishment, strength and health to every organ of the body. Sold by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

Mr. Timmid--Of course, I might succeed if I could only pluck up a little courage in my heart.

Patience--How do you know her love for him was strong? Patience--Because it broke him.--Yonker's Statesman.

MANY CHILDREN ARE SICKLY.

Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children, used by Mother Gray, a nurse in Children's Home, New York, cure Feverishness, Headache, Summer Complaints, Stomach Troubles, Bowel Disorders, and destroy worms. At all druggists, 25c. Sample mailed free. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought. Bears the Signature of J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

DR. THACHER'S Liver and Blood Syrup. CURES BY REMOVING THE CAUSE. A THREE-FOLD REMEDY for all its due to humoral troubles. Acts on the Liver and Kidneys and Purifies the Blood.

One Who Didn't Laugh.

"Mark Twain" once expressed the following sentiments to a young woman who had not smiled at a thing that he had said during an impromptu reception in his honor at Bryn Mawr College, to which his daughter had invited him. All the young ladies but one were in a state of great grief during the humorist's address--all but one had laughed heartily at every witty remark. Just as "Twain" finished he turned to the young woman who had not laughed and said in an undertone: "You are the only sensible one here. I have not said a single amusing thing."

Mary had a little lamb.

Whose face was fair to see, Because each night he had a drink Of Rocky Mountain Tea --E. T. Whitehead & Co.

"So Farly asked Ethel's father for her hand. Did he make a bit with the old gentleman?"

"I judge so. He was running and sliding for home when I saw him."--Juck.

The pill that will, will fill the bill.

Without a quiver. To cleanse the liver, without a quiver. Take one at night. DeWitt's Little Early Bitters are small, easy to take, easy and certain in effect, yet they are so certain in results that no one who uses them is disappointed. For quick relief from biliousness, sick headache, torpid liver, jaundice, dizziness and all troubles arising from an inactive, sluggish liver, Early Bitters are unequalled. Sold by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

"Doctor," inquired the inquisitive person, "do you believe that the cigarette habit causes weak minds?"

"Not necessarily," replied the D. D. "As a rule it merely indicates them."--Chicago Daily News.

NIGHT WAS HER TERROR.

"I would cough nearly all night long," writes Mrs. Charles Applegate, of Alexandria, Ind., "and could hardly get any sleep. I had consumption so bad that if I walked a block I would cough frightfully and spit blood, but, when all other medicines failed, three \$1.00 bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery wholly cured me and I gained 58 pounds." It's absolutely guaranteed to cure Coughs, Colds, La Grippe, Bronchitis and all Throat and Lung Troubles. Price 50c and \$1.00. Try 4 bottles free at E. T. Whitehead & Co. drug store.

Bacon--Why does the Medicine Man with an Indian troupe always make such awful faces? Expert--I suppose it comes from taking his own medicine.--Yonker's Statesman.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable.

For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Halls Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circular and testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Eye--But I can't like apples, anyway. The Serpent--That doesn't matter. They are excellent for the complexion. Eye--Indeed? Well, perhaps I'll try it.--Judge.

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